MARVEL

1

JASON AARON
LEONARD KIRK
ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
PEACH MOMOKO
TORUNN GRØNBEKK
KLAUS JANSON

STAR WARS™ DARTH VADER

BLACK, WHITE & RED

When Anakin Skywalker turned to the dark side, he became Darth Vader, one of the most powerful Sith of all time. In his service to the evil Galactic Empire, he has left a trail of destruction and terror, striking fear into the hearts of millions across the galaxy....

STAR WARS™
DARTH VADER
BLACK, WHITE & RED

"HARD SHUTDOWN PART 1"

JASON AARON writer • LEONARD KIRK artist

ROMULO FAJARDO JR. color artist

''INESCAPABLE"

PEACH MOMOKO writer & artist

"DISSOLUTION OF HOPE"

TORUNN GRØNBEKK writer • KLAUS JANSON artist

ALEX MALEEV cover artist

GABRIELE DELL'OTTO; JIM CHEUNG; KAARE ANDREWS variant cover artists

CARLOS LAO designer • VC's JOE CARAMAGNA letterer

MIKEY J. BASSO assistant editor • DANNY KHAZEM associate editor • MARK PANICCIA editor

C.B. CEBULSKI editor in chief

F O R L U C A S F I L M

ROBERT SIMPSON senior editor • MICHAEL SIGLAIN creative director • TROY ALDERS art director

MATT MARTIN, PABLO HIDALGO & EMILY SHKOUKANI lucasfilm story group

PHIL SZOSTAK creative art manager

Disney · LUCASFILM

The Outer Rim. The Horox system.
Abandoned ore-mining moon HS-197.

"HARD SHUTDOWN part 1"

Jason Aaron - writer • Leonard Kirk - artist
Romulo Fajardo Jr. - colorist

YOU WERE TOLD TO COME *ALONE.*

REST ASSURED, IT WILL BE *I* ALONE WHO *KILLS* YOU.

IF YOU DO NOT TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW,

IMMEDIATELY.

SO YOU **DO** REMEMBER **DOCTOR SENDVALL**. ENOUGH THAT THE **MENTION** OF HIS NAME BRINGS YOU RUNNING.

HE CERTAINLY NEVER FORGOT ABOUT **YOU**, VADER.

BUT AS I SAID IN THE MESSAGE, MY INFORMATION WILL **COST** YOU. WHAT'D YOU BRING FOR PAYMENT?

HHHGGHK!

GAAGH!

I HAVE JUST PAID YOU WITH YOUR **OWN LIFE**. THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER PAYMENTS.

TELL ME WHERE SENDVALL IS **HIDING**.

HE'S NOT HIDING. HE'S GOT A MARKER WITH HIS NAME ON IT. IN THE **GRAVEYARD** RIGHT OUT BACK.

I SHOULD KNOW--I BURIED HIM MYSELF. WHAT MORE COULD A GOOD **SON** DO?

HEH. YOU'RE **REALLY** HIM ALL RIGHT. HAD TO BE SURE.

THEN LET US DISPENSE WITH THIS CHARADE AND GET ON WITH THE **REBEL AMBUSH**.

VMMMM

YOU'RE **HALF** RIGHT, BIG FELLA.

WE AIN'T REBELS.

GAARRRGGH!!

AAAARRRGGH!!!

GUUGH!

GRREEEEIIIGGH!!!

MY ARM!!!

THE ARMS ARE STILL FIRING! GET BACK!

HH--

--UUHK!

VMMMFSSS!

WHAT WAS YOUR *GOAL* HERE, SON OF SENDVALL? IF YOUR FATHER IS DEAD, IT WAS NOT BY MY HAND. WHO *HIRED* YOU?

SPEAK, BOY!

I...I, UH...

"PADMÉ... HELP ME."

WHAT... DID YOU SAY?

TELL ME WHERE YOU HEARD THOSE WORDS!

WHOEVER SHE WAS, SHE CAN'T HELP YOU NOW.

NO ONE CAN.

CFREKK

HGGGK!

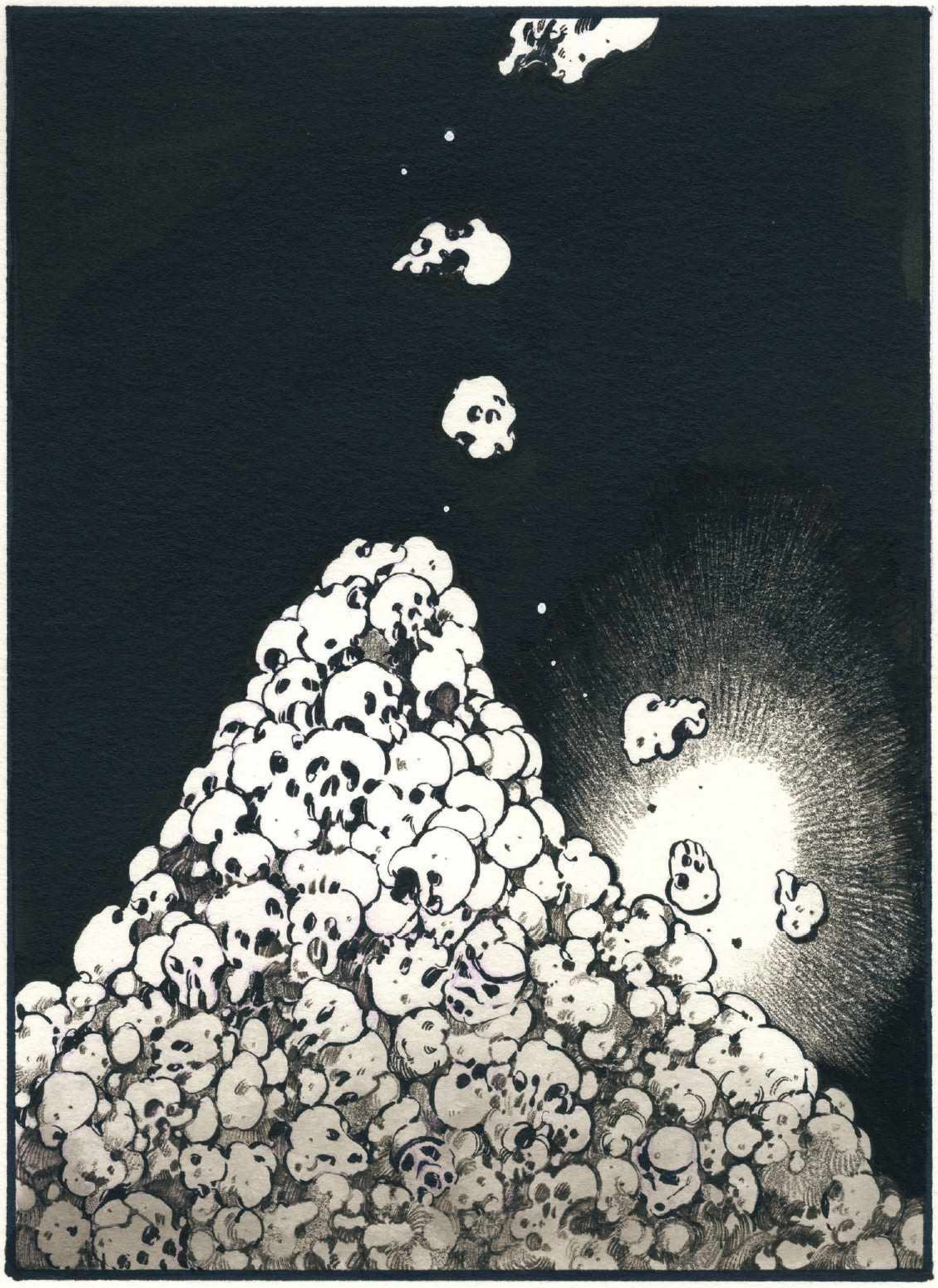
THIS IS *CYN*. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT *WORKED*.

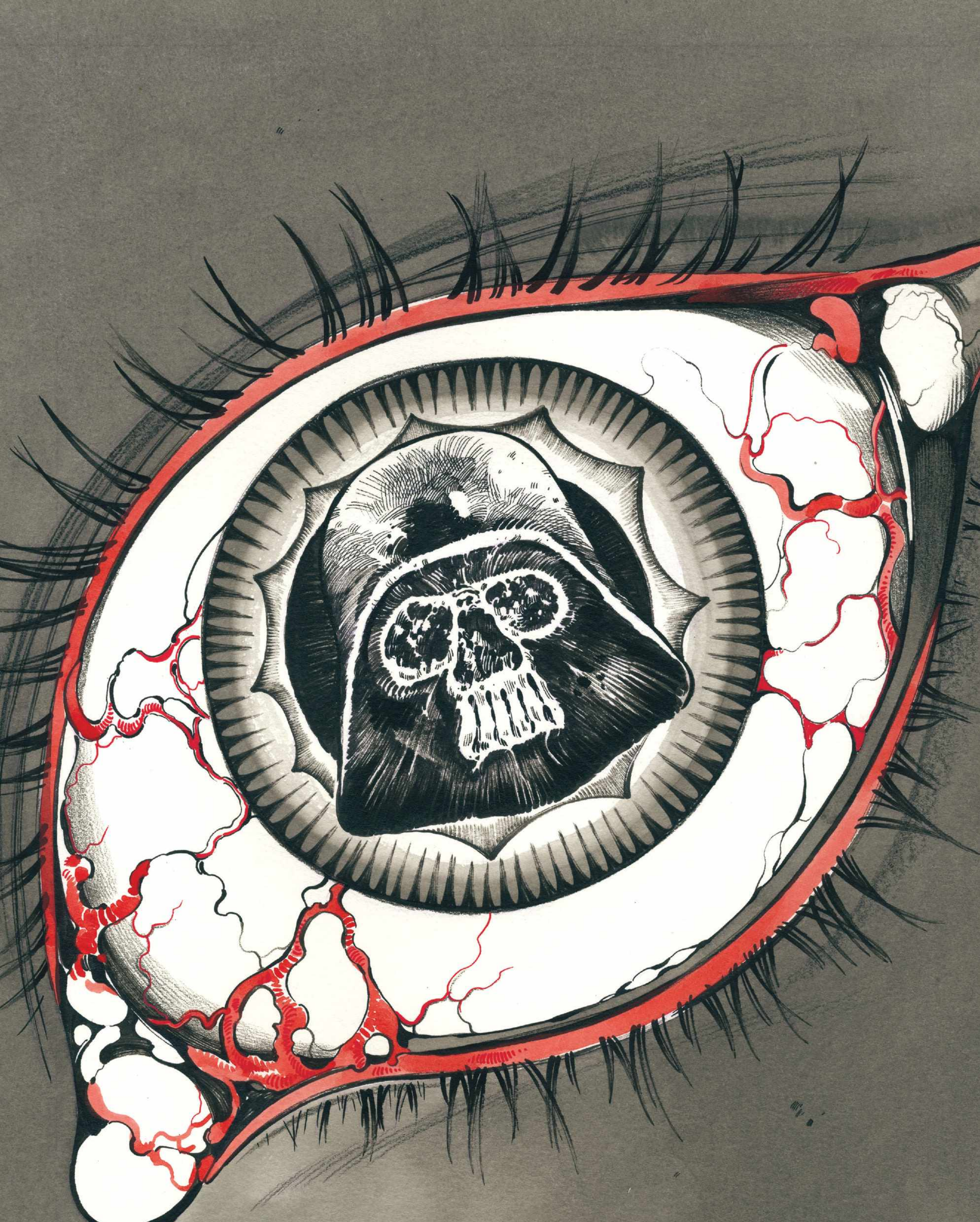
FULL *SHUTDOWN* HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

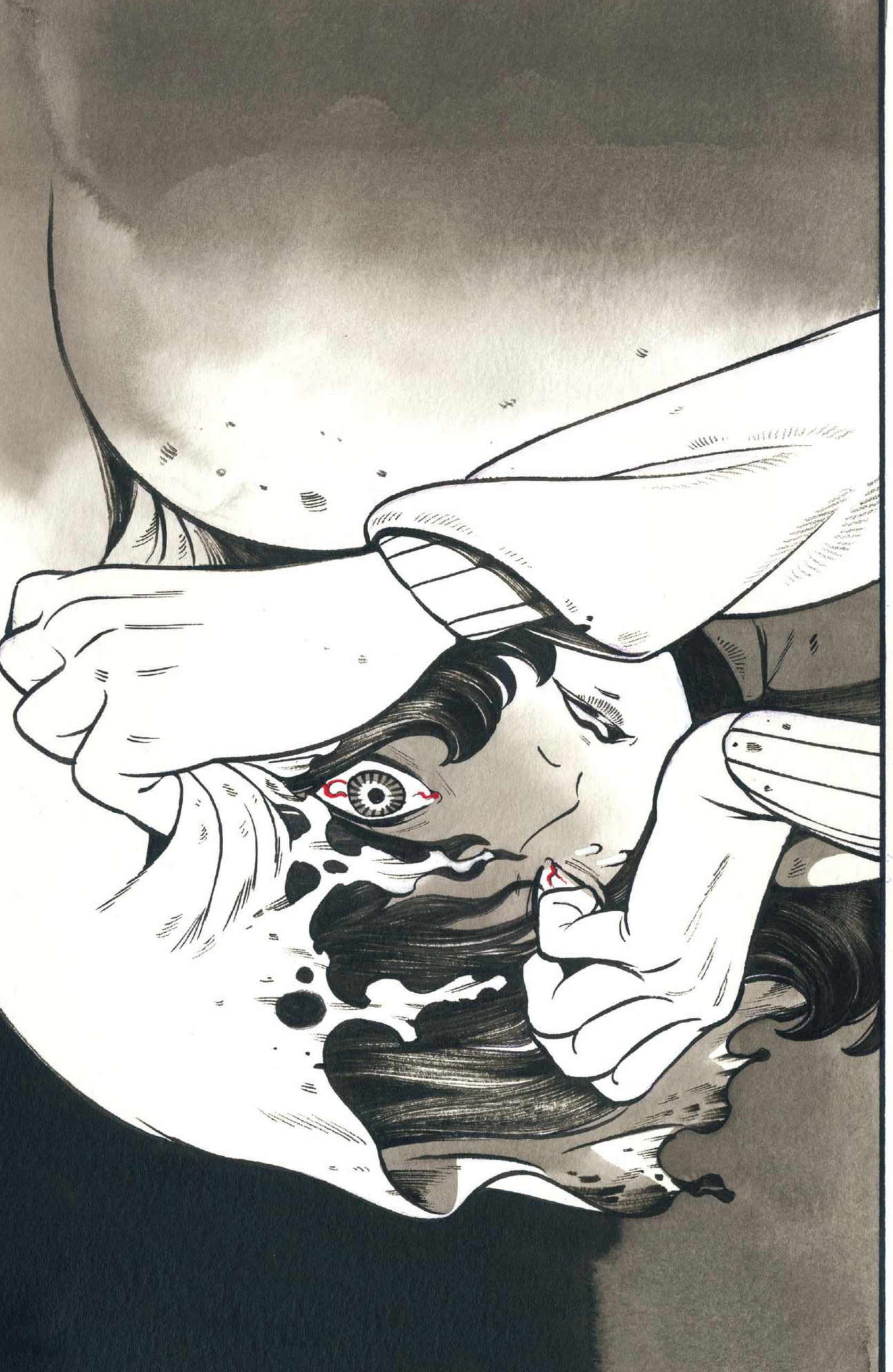
I'M LEAVING NOW WITH THE CARGO. READY THE CHOP SHOP.

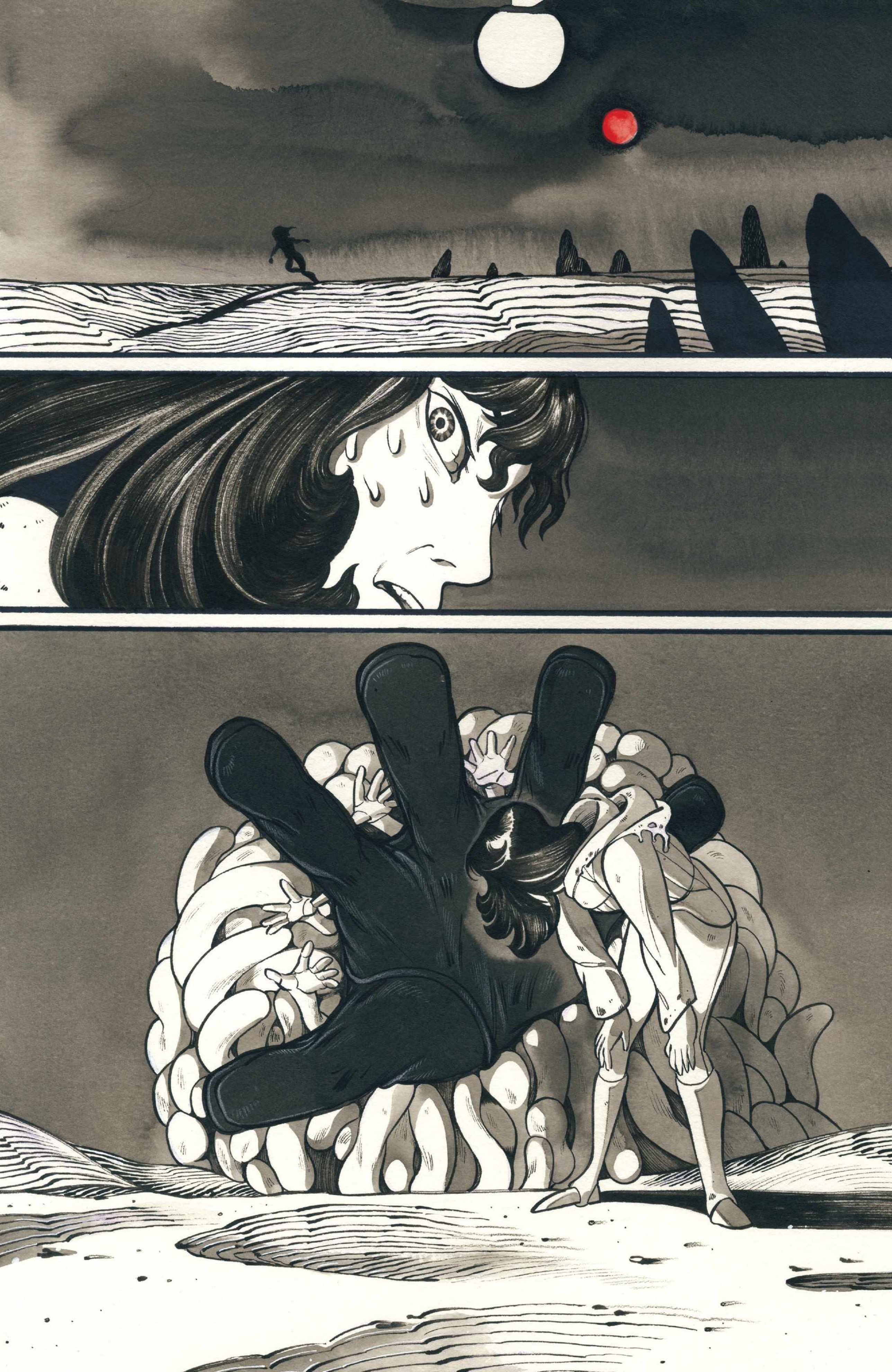
MAKE SURE THE *SAWS* ARE FULLY CHARGED.

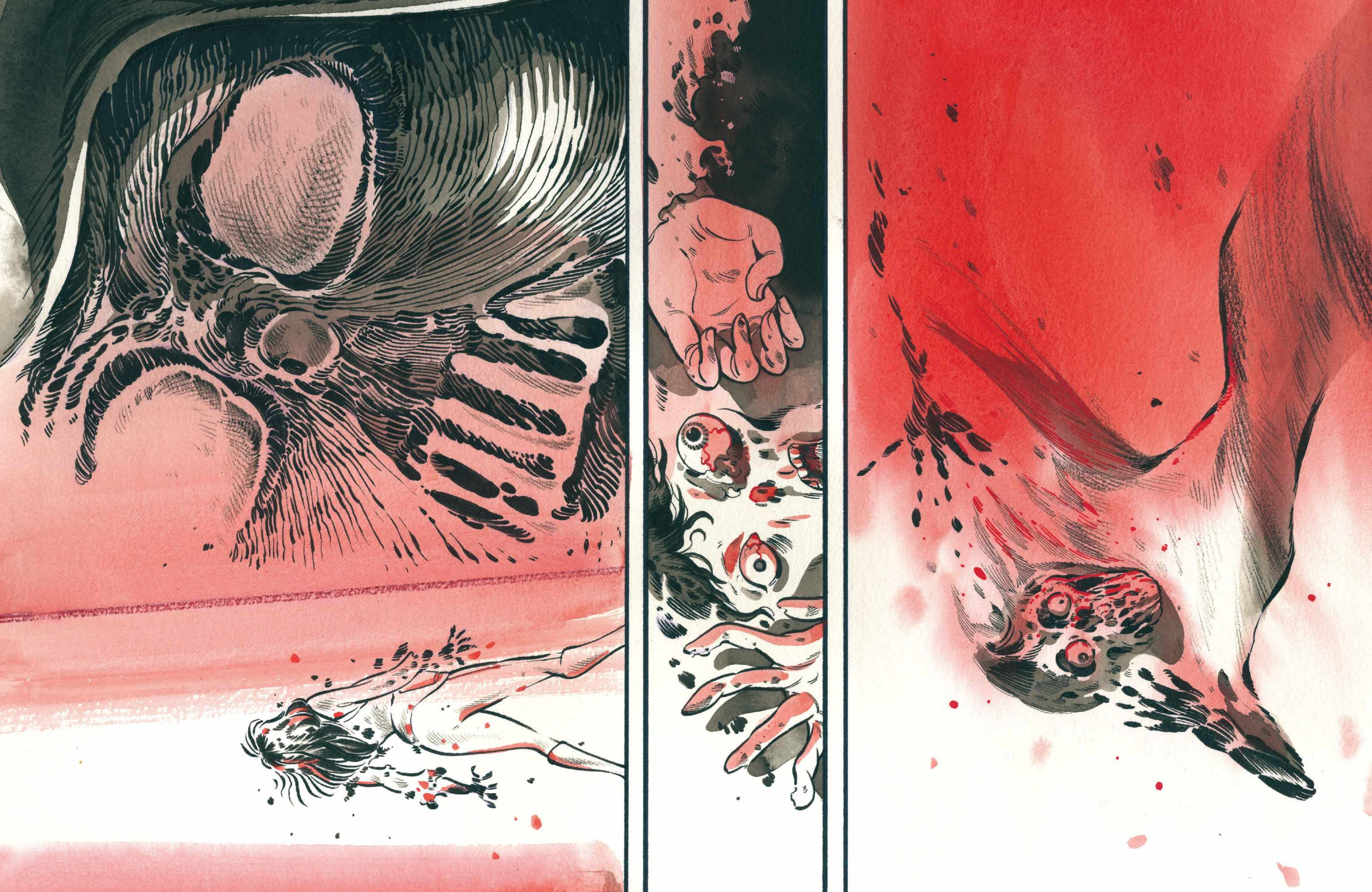
"INESCAPABLE"
by Peach Momoko











THE END

おわり

"Dissolution of Hope"

Torunn Grønbekk - writer
Klaus Janson - artist

Torku.

AN ORGANIZATION IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS WEAKEST POINT.

--A *LOCAL* CUSTOM.

THE TI-KEN BEGIN THE WORK AS SOON AS THEY CAN HOLD A NEEDLE.

BY THE TIME THEY REACH MARRIAGEABLE AGE, THEIR TAPESTRIES ARE FILLED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FROM THEIR LIVES, STITCHED WITH INCREASING PRECISION AND ARTISTIC UNDERSTANDING.

AND THERE IS ALWAYS A *WEAK POINT.*

DURING THE WEDDING CEREMONY, THEY PRESENT IT TO THEIR PARTNER. THE GIFT OF *A LIFE.*

LIKE A *DIARY* DRAWN IN *SILK*. A RATHER TOUCHING TRADITION WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.

USEFUL IF YOU'RE *ILLITERATE*, I SUPPOSE.

THIS IS THE SIXTEENTH YEAR. ADOLESCENCE IS THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER PERIOD... EXQUISITE NEEDLEWORK, IF *COSTLY*...

MOST COMMONLY--

HUSBAND! YOU HAVE KEPT US WAITING.

--A MAN.

WHERE... WHERE IS *LORD VADER?*

NOT COMING.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! *EVERYONE* IS HERE.

THAT FACT DID NOT SEEM TO CONCERN HIM.

WELL, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO *DO?*

KAELA, WILL YOU GIVE ME A MOMENT?

HIS MERE PRESENCE IS... SUFFOCATING. HE IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE SLOW PROGRESS OF THE BASE... AND THE MALFUNCTIONS IN THE *WEAPON SYSTEM...*

...THERE ARE QUESTIONS OF *SABOTAGE*, KAELA.

YOUR PARTY IS, FRANKLY, THE *LEAST* OF MY CONCERNS.

I NEED A MOMENT.

WHO ARE YOU?

THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE.

YOU WILL BE *SAFE* HERE.

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

CAN YOU SMELL *FLOWERS?*

WHY DOES IT SMELL LIKE FLOWERS HERE?

IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?

BREATHE.

THEY ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE.

WHY ARE THEY BEHIND SCHEDULE?!

I NEED YOU TO BREATHE, ***DAVGAR.*** AND REMEMBER... WE DIED LONG AGO.

BRINGING HIM IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

SAID IT FROM THE BEGINNING.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO ***REPROGRAM A C3-42?*** DO YOU KNOW HOW TO ARM--?

SILENCE!

HE IS THE MISSION, ***BAZER.*** WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT HIM.

SORRY, BOSS.

DIED LONG AGO. DIED LONG AGO.

THE BASE ON TORKU HAS MANY ***WEAKNESSES.***

COME ON.

THEY ALL BEGIN WITH ***INDIFFERENCE.***

EXTINCTION

IT BREEDS *CORRUPTION.*

VIOLENCE.

THEY DID IT.

THEY *BLOODY* WELL DID IT.

WAIT.

WE WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL.

AND *OPPORTUNITY.*

HAD *SAFETY* BEEN A CONCERN, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER THE MOST *PROMINENT* CITIZENS IN THE GALAXY IN ONE LOCATION.

PLEASE!

IF IT IS *VADER* YOU WANT, I CAN TAKE YOU TO HIM.

OR CREDITS? I CAN GET YOU INTO THE BASE... *DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!*

WHATEVER THEIR REASON--

PLEA--

YOU USE YOUR LAST WORDS TO BETRAY EVERYTHING YOU HAVE WORKED FOR.

HOW CAN SOMEONE WHO FEELS SO LITTLE BUILD SOMETHING SO BIG?

--VANITY--

--LAZINESS--

AAA--AAAAA--AAAAHH!

--CARELESS ARROGANCE--

I GOT IT.

--THEY GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED.

ABOVE GROUND, SECURITY IS DIVERTED FROM THE BASE TO THE CITY CENTER.

IT IS ANOTHER PREDICTABLE MISTAKE.

WE GOT IT.

WAS HE THERE?

NO.

GOOD.

"GOOD"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN "GOOD"?

HEY! WHAT THE--?

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT?! NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE--

REMEMBER WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.

YEAH, BUT... HE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE DOWN HERE.

DON'T LOOK, DAVGAR. JUST KEEP WALKING.

LISTEN, I HEARD SOME THINGS AT THE PARTY...

THIS ISN'T A *ROUTINE* VISIT.

VADER FOUND OUT ABOUT THE IRREGULARITIES AT THE BASE... I'M PRETTY SURE HE KNOWS ABOUT THE ***SABOTAGE***.

THEY ARE ALL...WELL, THEY ***WERE*** ALL TERRIFIED OF HIM.

THIS IS NOT AN ORDINARY MAN, ***ANKER***. DON'T SEEK HIM OUT. IF HE IS HERE, HE'LL DIE WITH THE REST OF US.

NO, I JUST...

I WANT TO ***SEE*** HIM DIE.

AFTER WE DESTROY THE BASE, ***THE EMPIRE*** WILL EVENTUALLY RECOVER ITS HOLD OVER TORKU.

BUT ***VADER*** IS A SYMBOL.

HE IS A MESSAGE.

AND IN THE END--

--HE IS JUST A MAN, FALL.

MEN ***DIE***.

THIS IS IT. REMEMBER, NO FEAR--

--FOR WE'RE ALREADY DEAD. GREAT PEP TALK, ANKER.

FIRST DOOR TO THE LEFT. FIRST DOOR TO THE LEFT. FIRST DOOR TO THE LEFT.

MEN DIE.

BUT I DO REGRET THE LOSS OF LIFE.

NOT ALL SOLDIERS ARE GUILTY OF THEIR MASTER'S CRIMES.

NOO!

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!

GO!

IT'S UP TO YOU NOW, DAVGAR. IT'S ALL UP TO YOU!

DAVGAR LLIAN.

BRILLIANT SCIENTIST.

HE LOST HIS ENTIRE FAMILY IN THE *TRA-HEN* UPRISING.

LOST HIS NERVE TOO.

HE COULD HAVE HAD A BRIGHT FUTURE IN THE EMPIRE.

THE WEAPON IS... *OPERATIONAL.*

THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

THEN HE DID IN A MINUTE WHAT YOU HAVE FAILED TO DO IN A YEAR.

BUT HE CHOSE HIS SIDE.

HE IS TARGETING *THE BASE!*

I CANNOT OVERRIDE IT FROM HERE.

I ADMIRE HIS DEVOTION, EVEN IF IT IS WHOLLY MISPLACED.

THE WEAPON IS *ARMED.*

FEAR NOT, FOR WE ARE ALREADY DEAD. WE DIED WITH THEM. WE DIED LONG AGO. WE DIED LONG AGO.

HE IS CORRECT ABOUT ONE THING THOUGH--

VNNNN

--HE IS ALREADY DEAD.

HATRED AND FEAR COURSE THROUGH THEM.

THEY FEAR *FAILURE* MORE THAN *DEATH.*

BUT EVEN NOW, SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE, THERE IS STILL *HOPE.*

LIKE SO MANY OTHER DYING SOLDIERS--

--THEY *HOPE* FOR A *MIRACLE.*

THEY HOPE FOR *MERCY.*

THEY FIND *NONE.*

YOU...

YOU KN-KN-KNEW?

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD REVERSE THE SABOTAGE, LLIAN.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

The end.

NEXT

Jason Aaron and Leonard Kirk continue their tale of the greatest villain in the galaxy!

Plus, exciting and terrifying tales from Victoria Ying, Marika Cresta, David Pepose and Alessandro Vitti!

ISSUE TWO COMING SOON

STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM